United Nations A/73/538/Add.7

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 20 (g)

Sustainable development: report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/73/538, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 23rd, 27th and 28th meetings, on 8 November and 3 December 2018. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/73/L.36 and A/C.2/73/L.49

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme" (A/C.2/73/L.36).

3. At its 27th meeting, on 3 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme" (A/C.2/73/L.49), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mehdi Remaoun (Algeria), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.36.

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 12 parts, under the symbols A/73/538, A/73/538/Add.1, A/73/538/Add.2, A/73/538/Add.3, A/73/538/Add.4, A/73/538/Add.5, A/73/538/Add.6, A/73/538/Add.7, A/73/538/Add.8, A/73/538/Add.9, A/73/538/Add.10 and A/73/538/Add.11.

[1] A/C.2/73/SR.23, A/C.2/73/SR.27 and A/C.2/73/SR.28.

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4. At the same meeting, the Committee also had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, as contained in document A/C.2/73/L.68.

5. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Russian Federation.

6. Also at the 27th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Algeria, to which the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Cédric Braquetti (Monaco), responded.

7. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the Russian Federation and the co-facilitator of the draft resolution, Costa Rica, also on behalf of the co-facilitator, Estonia.

8. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation orally proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49.[2]

9. Also at the 27th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Austria, on behalf of the States members of the European Union, and Egypt, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

10. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Vice-Chair (Monaco), the Committee deferred its consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49 to a subsequent meeting.

11. At the 28th meeting, on 3 December, the Vice-Chair (Algeria) made a statement with regard to draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation made a statement and withdrew the proposed amendment to operative paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49.

13. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Mexico, on which the Vice-Chair (Algeria) provided clarification.

14. Also at the 28th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

15. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Vice-Chair (Algeria) and the representative of the Russian Federation.

16. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49 (see para. 19).

17. Also at the 28th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, the United States of America and the Russian Federation.

18. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49, draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.36 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

[2] See A/C.2/73/SR.27.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

19. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the mandate contained in its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997,[1] the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000[2] and the Nusa Dua Declaration of 26 February 2010,[3]

Reaffirming also its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, entitled "The future we want",[4] and noting the follow-up on paragraph 88, subparagraphs (*a*) to (*h*), of the outcome document, including through General Assembly resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012,

Recalling also the establishment of universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as other measures to strengthen its governance and its responsiveness and accountability to Member States, the attendant change of its designation to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the evolution in the periodicity of its sessions,

Recalling further its resolutions 68/215 of 20 December 2013, 69/223 of 19 December 2014 and 71/231 of 21 December 2016,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[5] and its principles,

Taking into account Agenda 21[6] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[7]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/55/25), annex I, decision SS.VI/1, annex.

[3] Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/65/25), annex I, decision SS.XI/9.

[4] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[6] Ibid., annex II.

[7] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome[8] and the outcome document of the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[9]

Recalling also the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[10]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,[11] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement,

Looking forward to the Secretary-General's Climate Summit in 2019 to accelerate global action on climate change,

Taking note of the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to addressing the challenge of, inter alia, climate change, within its mandate and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders,

Committed to strengthening international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as coordination within the United Nations system,

Committed also to enhancing the voice of the United Nations Environment Programme and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies and empowering it to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment,

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[8] Resolution 60/1.

[9] Resolution 68/6.

[10] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1/Corr.1, annex.

[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Recognizing the important contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, which met under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council from 9 to 18 July in New York and undertook an in-depth review of progress on a subset of 6 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals,

Reiterating the need for secure, stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlining the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget, as well as the need to realize efficiency gains,

Reaffirming the commitments, as contained in the ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014,[13] inter alia, to ensure the full integration of the environmental dimension, especially throughout the sustainable development agenda, acknowledging that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development,

Reiterating the need to develop and expand partnerships, including between Governments, the private sector, academia, relevant United Nations entities and programmes, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and individuals,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017, welcomes also the report on the session and the resolutions and decisions contained therein,[14] and looks forward to the convening of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly from 11 to 15 March 2019;

2. *Reiterates* the ministerial declaration entitled "Towards a pollution-free planet"[15] adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its third session, and reaffirms that addressing pollution is a crucial element for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the continued commitment of the United Nations Environment Assembly to contributing to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[16] in an integrated manner, as reflected in its resolutions 2/5 of 27 May 2016[17] and 3/3 of 6 December 2017[18] on contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

4. *Commends* the President and the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council for supporting and facilitating the effective integration of the contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly into the preparation, work and proceedings of, and the participation of the President of the Environment Assembly in, the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council;

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[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/69/25), annex, resolution 1/1.

[14] Ibid., *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/73/25).

[15] UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1.

[16] Resolution 70/1.

[17] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/71/25), annex, resolution 2/5.

[18] Ibid., *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/73/25), annex, resolution 3/3.

5. *Encourages* the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to continue to convey the main messages agreed upon by the Environment Assembly at its sessions during the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, taking into account the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as General Assembly resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 70/299 of 29 July 2016;

6. *Looks forward* to the contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the lead-up, inputs and meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2019;

7. *Reiterates* that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard calls for the continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building[10] adopted by the Programme;

8. *Also reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically based and policy-relevant global environmental assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels;

9. *Expresses concern* about the sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of the United Nations Environment Programme governing body, and requests the Secretary-General to make proposals, as appropriate;

10. *Notes* the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide options to secure the participation of developing countries in the Environment Assembly;[19]

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme", unless otherwise agreed.

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[19] Ibid., *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/69/25), annex, resolution 1/15.